

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A walk-behind lawn mower comprising:

an engine for driving at least one cutting blade; ~~and~~

a latch assembly for receiving part of a sulky attached to the mower, wherein the latch assembly includes a pivotal spring-biased latch having a recess defined therein, wherein the recess of the latch is adapted to receive a protruding member of a sulky when a sulky is folded up from a deployed position to a stowed position so that the latch assembly of the mower can hold the folded up sulky in the stowed position; and

a buttress plate located laterally forward of the latch, so that a leading portion of the sulky is adapted to hit the buttress plate when the sulky is moved into the stowed position with excessive force.

2. (Original) The mower of claim 1, further comprising a release member operatively coupled to the latch assembly, wherein the release member extends upwardly from the latch assembly through a dashboard of the mower so that when an operator actuates the release member the latch assembly releases the sulky from the stowed position so that the sulky drops to the ground.

3. (Original) The mower of claim 2, wherein the release member comprises an elongated rod including a curved top end, and when an operator pulls the rod upwardly this causes the latch assembly to release the sulky from the stowed position so that the sulky drops to the ground.

4. (Currently amended) A walk-behind lawn mower comprising:
an engine for driving at least one cutting blade;
a latch assembly for receiving part of a sulky attached to the mower, wherein the latch assembly includes a pivotal spring-biased latch having a recess defined therein, wherein the recess of the latch is adapted to receive a protruding member of a sulky when a sulky is folded up from a deployed position to a stowed position so that the latch assembly of the mower can hold the folded up sulky in the stowed position; and

~~The mower of claim 1,~~ wherein the protruding member extends outwardly from a normally vertical pivot axis of the sulky so as to define an angle θ of from about 30 to 70 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky.

5. (Original) The mower of claim 1, wherein the latch assembly is located under a dashboard of the mower.

6. (Currently amended) The mower of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, further comprising a buttress plate located laterally forward of the latch, so that a leading portion of the sulky is adapted to hit the buttress plate when the sulky is moved into the stowed position with excessive force.

7-17. (Canceled)

18. (New) The mower of claim 4, wherein the protruding member extends outwardly from the normally vertical pivot axis of the sulky so as to define an angle θ of from about 40 to 65 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky.

19. (New) The mower of claim 1, wherein the protruding member extends outwardly from a normally vertical pivot axis of the sulky so as to define an angle θ of from about 20 to 75 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky.

20. (New) The mower of claim 19, wherein the protruding member extends outwardly from the normally vertical pivot axis of the sulky so as to define an angle θ of from about 30 to 70 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky.

21. (New) The mower of claim 19, wherein the protruding member extends outwardly from the normally vertical pivot axis of the sulky so as to define an angle θ of from about 40 to 65 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky.

22. (New) The mower of claim 1, wherein the protruding member is located in an approximately laterally central portion of the sulky during normal mower operation when the sulky is in the deployed position.

23. (New) The mower of claim 4, wherein the protruding member is located in an approximately laterally central portion of the sulky during normal mower operation when the sulky is in the deployed position.